

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/397,675
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated October 29 2003
Reply to First Office Action of July 29, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 18 are pending in this application, of which claims 3–18 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2003.

As To The Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

1. claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 4,848,157); and
2. claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of either Terajima (JP 3-82910) or Shinogi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,606).

Each of these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now calls for a face of the transducer is made flush with a face of the weight portion, and the base, the transducer and the weight portion are stacked in the height direction, and the transducer is a torsion vibrator having two sliding vibrators.

For example, as shown in Fig. 3 and discussed on page 11, lines 12 – 17 of the present specification, the vibrator 11 is a torsion vibrator having two sliding vibrators 11a and 11b.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/397,675
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated October 29 2003
Reply to First Office Action of July 29, 2003

Kobayashi fails to disclose these features of claim 1. More specifically, in Kobayashi, the face of beam 11 is not flush with either the face of projection member 14 or the face of weight 15 (col. 5, lines 29-36, FIGS. 1, 2 and 12). Moreover, Kobayashi fails to disclose the newly added feature of claim 1 concerning the transducer being a torsion vibrator having two sliding vibrators.

Further, the applied secondary references of Terajima and Shinogi et al. fail to disclose the above-noted drawbacks and deficiencies of Kobayashi with regard to the features of claim 1.

In addition, dependent claim 2, as amended, now calls for wherein the amount of characteristic is a voltage caused by sliding stresses having directions different from each other on the two sliding vibrators.

For example, as also shown in Fig. 3 and discussed on page 11, lines 12 – 17, the vibrator 11 is arranged so that a potential difference caused by sliding stresses (indicated by arrows in Fig. 3) having directions different from each other on the two sliding vibrators 11a and 11b is detected.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 2 concerning wherein the amount of characteristic is a voltage caused by sliding stresses having directions different from each other on the two sliding vibrators.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/397,675
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated October 29 2003
Reply to First Office Action of July 29, 2003

In view of the foregoing remarks, and accompanying amendments, the application is in condition for allowance, for which such action is requested at an early date.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 44,450

TEB:kal
1250 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 822-1100
Q:\1999 - CHECKED\991021\1.111 AMENDMENT - OCTOBER 2003.DOC